ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a technique for generating a useful service manual and for improving the efficiency of data processing related to a service manual. According to this technique, an XML service manual generation control unit 1000 obtains various non-structured data and generates structured data based on the various non-structured data. At this time, structured data is generated based on structure definitions (DTD) that are designated for various non-structured data. Especially, document information is converted into structured data in an XML format and drawing information is converted into structured data in an SVG format, elements in a document and elements in a drawing can be automatically correlated, and an XML service manual wherein information is highly linked is generated. Further, when the generated XML service manual is employed, additional information related to a comment entered by a user, a setup change, etc., is also converted into structured data based on a predetermined structure definition.